

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 02300 151043Z

42

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 NIC-01 SS-20 NSC-07 H-03 DRC-01

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R 150950Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9345

USIA WASHDC

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB UNN

UNCLAS BELGRADE 2300

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OGEN, YO, US

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION REPORT: WATERGATE

1. LEADING BELGRADE DAILY POLITIKA MAY 14 CARRIES FRONT-PAGE (THREE COLUMN) HEADLINE REPORT BY NY CORR JURIJ GUSTINCIC, WITH SUBTITLE "AMERICA'S POLITICAL CRISIS," FOCUSING ON CONFLICT WITHIN REPUBLICAN PARTY, BETWEEN WHITE HOUSE AND CONGRESS, ON SUBJECT OF RESIGNATION OR IMPEACHMENT OF PRESIDENT. GUSTINCIC WRITES THAT SOME BELIEVE, "NIXON NO LONGER FIGHTS TO REMAIN IN POWER," BUT "FIGHTS NOT TO END IN JAIL." WHITE HOUSE VIEW THAT CALL IN CONGRESS FOR RESIGNATION ARE BEING RAISED SO THAT CONGRESS MIGHT AVOID ITS RESPONSIBILITY, "IS NOT FAR FROM POLITICAL TRUTH" ADDS GUSTINCIC, SINCE WISER INDIVIDUALS ARE AWARE THAT RESIGNATION BEFORE CONGRESS ACTS, WOULD DIVIDE AMERICAN PEOPLE SO THAT WHEN MORAL INDIGNATION SUBSIDED, SOME WOULD SAY THAT PRESIDENT WAS FORCED TO ACT BEFORE JUSTICE TOOK ITS COURSE. COMMENTARY CONSIDERS THAT "NIXON IS IN FACT ALONE," WITH INFLUENCE OVER THE PEOPLE IN DOUBT AND CONGRESSIONAL INFLUENCE FADING. IN A CAUSTIC NOTE, GUSTINCIC SUGGESTS A TARNISHING OF THE AMERICAN DREAM IN RECOUNTING THAT A GROUP OF CONGRESSMEN PLANNED TO SEEK AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE PRESIDENT TO PROTEST THAT "HE CAN SMILE (IN RECENT PUBLIC APPEARANCES)-- TYPICALLY UNCLASSIFIED

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AMERICAN - - IN A SITUATION WHICH IS UNTYPICALLY AMERICAN,

AN AMERICAN TRAGEDY". GUSTINCIC CONCLUDES THAT PRESIDENT
MAY STILL HOPE FOR FAVORABLE END TO CONFLICT WITH CONGRESS,
"DUE TO NOTORIOUS CONGRESSIONAL HESITATION".

2. BELGRADE EVENING DAILY VECERNJE NOVOSTI MAY 13 INCLUDES
TANJUG REPORT FROM WASHINGTON BY BRANKO BOGUNOVIC, WITH
HEADLINE: "THE ONLY DILEMMA: RESIGNATION OR IMPEACHMENT".
TOON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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